IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A medical instrument comprising:

a swingable operating section formed of a pair of forceps, each of which rocks individually around a respective first rocking axis corresponding thereto;

a tubular sheath having a distal end portion situated on a proximal end side of the operating section, the distal end portion having a circular-section portion having a circular cross section perpendicular to a longitudinal central axis of the ~~tubular sheath~~ circular-section portion and a pair of parallel flat portions symmetrically formed on opposite sides of the circular-section portion and in sliding contact with respective proximal end portions of the forceps;

a pair of manipulators which advance and retreat along the longitudinal central axis of the tubular sheath, thereby rocking the forceps around the first rocking axis; and

a pair of junctions which respectively connect the manipulators for rocking motion around a second rocking axis to the forceps in the flat portions, the junctions being situated substantially on a reference plane containing the longitudinal axis of the tubular sheath and extending parallel to the second rocking axis, when the operating section is closed;

wherein the first rocking axis of each forceps is not on the reference plane when the operating section is closed.

2. (Withdrawn) A medical instrument according to claim 1, wherein a plane passing through the first rocking axis and extending parallel to the reference plane is not coincident with a plane passing through the second rocking axis and extending parallel to the reference plane.

3. (Withdrawn) A medical instrument according to claim 1, wherein the first rocking axis is not on the reference plane.

4. (Withdrawn) A medical instrument according to claim 1, wherein the manipulator and the junction have wires and pins, respectively.

5. (Withdrawn) A medical instrument according to claim 1, which further comprises a recovery line located on the proximal end side of the forceps and used to recover an organic tissue, control wires forming the manipulator, passed through the sheath, and adapted to be connected to the forceps by the junction after being led out of the sheath through the distal end portion, outlet portions at the distal end portion through which the control wires are led out of the sheath, and a slide member connected to the respective proximal end portions of the control wires and serving to move the control wires in the axial direction thereof, thereby opening or closing the forceps; and wherein the control wire is provided with a springy molded part premolded into a predetermined shape, the molded part being adapted to be deformed from the predetermined shape and engage the corresponding outlet portion when an operating force is applied to the slide member so that the forceps are fully closed, and the molded part being adapted to be restored to the predetermined shape so that the molded part and the outlet portion are disengaged and the forceps are urged to open when the slide member is released from the operating force.

6. (Original) A medical instrument according to claim 1, wherein the first rocking axis is composed of shank portions protruding radially outward from the flat portions and spread portions formed on the respective distal ends of the shank portions corresponding thereto and larger in outer diameter larger than the shank portions.

7. (Original) A medical instrument according to claim 6, wherein the spread portions are formed by spreading the shank portions.

8. (Withdrawn) A medical instrument according to claim 1, which further comprises tubular pins fitted on the first rocking axis, and wherein each of the forceps has a support hole penetrated by the first rocking axis, each of the pins being composed of a shank portion, having inner and outer diameters such that the pin can be fitted between the inner surface of the support hole of the forceps and the first rocking axis to support the forceps, and a spread portion formed on the distal end of the shank portion projecting from the support hole and having an outer diameter larger than that of the shank portion.

9. (Withdrawn) A medical instrument according to claim 8, wherein the spread portions are welded to the first rocking axis.

10. (Currently Amended) A medical instrument comprising:

a swingable operating section formed of a pair of forceps which rock individually around a rocking axis corresponding thereto;

a tubular sheath having a distal end portion situated on the proximal end side of the operating section, the distal end portion having a circular-section portion having a circular cross section perpendicular to a longitudinal central axis of the circular-section portion ~~thereof~~ and a pair of flat portions formed by cutting the opposite sides of the circular-section portion and in sliding contact with the respective proximal end portions of the forceps, and

a pair of junctions formed integrally with the flat portions so as not to project into the bore of the distal end portion, said junctions being situated substantially on a reference plane when the operation section is closed;

wherein the rocking axis of each forceps is not on the reference plane when the operating section is closed.

11. (Withdrawn) A medical instrument according to claim 10, wherein the rocking axis is composed of shank portions protruding radially outward from the flat portions and spread portions formed on respective distal ends of the shank portions corresponding thereto and in outer diameter larger than the shank portions.

12. (Withdrawn) A medical instrument according to claim 11, wherein the spread portions are formed by spreading the shank portions.

13. (Withdrawn) A medical instrument according to claim 10, which further comprises tubular pins fitted on said rocking axis, and wherein the forceps has a support hole penetrated by the rocking axis, the pin being composed of a shank portion, having inner and outer diameters such that the pin can be fitted between the inner surface of the support hole of the forceps and the rocking axis to support the forceps, and a spread portion formed on the distal end of the shank portion projecting from the support hole and having an outer diameter larger than that of the shank portion.

14. (Withdrawn) A medical instrument according to claim 13, wherein the spread portions are welded to each said rocking axis.

15. (Withdrawn) A medical instrument comprising:

a swingable operating section formed of a pair of forceps which rock individually around rocking axes corresponding thereto; and

a tubular sheath having a distal end portion situated on a proximal end side of the operating section, the distal end portion having a circular-section portion having a circular cross section perpendicular to a longitudinal central axis thereof and a pair of flat portions formed by cutting the opposite sides of the circular-section portion and in sliding contact with the respective proximal end portions of the forceps,

the rocking axes being not on a reference plane passing through the longitudinal central axis of the sheath and extending parallel to the rocking axes.

16. (Previously Presented) A medical instrument according to claim 1, wherein the junctions are situated in a region that has a maximum outer diameter of the circular-section portion when the operating section is closed.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) A medical instrument according to claim 1, wherein the manipulators are made of one of a stainless spring steel and a superelastic alloy.

19. (Previously Presented) A medical instrument according to claim 1, wherein the tubular sheath has a port formed at a distal end of the distal end portion to outwardly open, and a bore extending along the longitudinal central axis and communicated with the port.

20. (Previously Presented) A medical instrument according to claim 1, wherein the manipulators include a pair of wires, and the junctions include a pair of pins which are respectively connected to the wires.

21. (Previously Presented) A medical instrument according to claim 1, wherein the pair of junctions disposed about the second rocking axis are formed so as not to project into a bore of the distal end portion.

22. (Previously Presented) A medical instrument according to claim 1, further comprising a pair of supporting pins disposed about the first rocking axis and formed integrally with the parallel flat portions so as not to project into a bore of the distal end portion.

23. (Previously Presented) A medical instrument according to claim 1, wherein the pair of junctions are rotatably supported at the proximal end portions and are rotatably and directly fixed to the pair of manipulators.

24. (Previously Presented) A medical instrument according to claim 1, wherein the junctions do not situate on the reference plane, when the operation section is opened.